

**WORSHIP SERVICE ON  
SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 15, 2020**

Our Scripture readings for next Sunday, November 15, 2020, the 24th Sunday after Pentecost, are: Zephaniah 1:7, 12-18; and Matthew 25:14-30. The sermon title is "Risking It All," and the Bulletin is available here:

<https://fpcofvictoria.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/11/2020-11-15-BulletinPDF.pdf>



## CARES AND CONCERNS

Suddenly and tragically, we have lost our brother in Christ, French Tarkington, who joined the Church Triumphant in the early hours of Tuesday morning, November 9, 2020.

Martha Tarkington is joined by their daughter, Ginny, as final arrangements are being made to memorialize French's passing. This dreadful pandemic hangs over those arrangements as the Tarkington Family does not want to place their many friends at risk. Sadly, all of the public health data indicates that, without adequate precautions, memorial services can actually become COVID "hot spots" for those who attend.

Accordingly, while arrangements are still pending as this Newsletter is being published, we can forecast that French's interment and his Memorial Service will be very small, very limited affairs. At the same time we are considering means by which we might record a Memorial Service for French (with mostly family in attendance) and broadcast it over our website and our Facebook page-- as we currently do with our Sunday worship services. That way, the Tarkington's FPC family and their many friends in Victoria and elsewhere around the country may share in that experience as we pay our respects to French and his family.

Our hearts are broken, as they always are when we lose someone we love. French has been a pillar of our church and our community for decades, and he shall be sorely missed. As Christians, however, we take comfort in Paul's testimony in his Epistle to the Romans (8:38-39): "For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord."

Pray for Fiench, pray for Martha, pray for their family, pray for us all.

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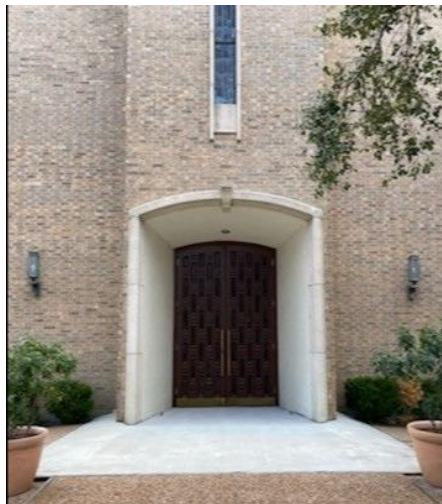


### A REPEATED CALL FOR HELP FROM CHRIST'S KITCHEN

Christ's Kitchen has again been overwhelmed by an increase in the number of homeless who look to that organization for likely their only meal of the day. At the same time, the customary suppliers who assist Christ's Kitchen in providing desserts for the meals prepared by the volunteers at Christ's Kitchen once again cannot keep up with the demand. ***Therefore, Christ's Kitchen volunteers from First Presbyterian Church once more need the congregation's help.***

Here is a reminder, from Frances Miller and Billy Leske, concerning how each of us can donate desserts to feed the homeless on Tuesday, the day that FPC's dedicated volunteers prepare to-go lunch boxes for over 800 needy people:

1. If you are able to donate store-bought or homemade cakes, cookies, brownies, etc., you can bring them to the church office on Monday or to Christ's Kitchen (611 Warren Ave.) by 8:30 a.m. on Tuesday mornings.
  2. Individual desserts such as cookies, brownies, lemon bars, etc., should be put in small ziploc storage bags before being delivered. Typical servings per storage bag are 3 to 4 cookies or 2 to 3 donuts, brownies, lemon bars, etc. Cakes or pies should be delivered in disposable, non-returnable containers.
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**IN-PERSON WORSHIP SERVICES CONTINUE  
BUT  
MEETINGS OF THE NELLIE HUDSON  
SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS POSTPONED**

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**WORSHIP SERVICES REMAIN  
AVAILABLE "ONLINE" AT  
[WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/FPCOFVICTORIA](https://www.facebook.com/FPCOFVICTORIA)  
AND  
[WWW.FPCOFVICTORIA.COM](https://www.fpcovictoria.com)**

It has been a joy to see, from a safe social distance, so many members and visitors in our re-opened Sanctuary these past three Sundays! Steadily and carefully, we are adjusting to our new Health Protocols designed to keep us safe as we provide an opportunity for in-person worship and fellowship for those who feel comfortable in returning to our church premises.

After prayerful consideration, however, one adjustment we believe we should make to our re-opening plans is to postpone further meetings of the Nellie Hudson Sunday School Class until the current rise in COVID-19 cases abates. As much as the members of our Adult Sunday School class enjoy C.F. Schneider's instruction and one another's company, spending two hours at church (Sunday School plus worship) may be too much to undertake at this time.

I have talked with C.F., and he agrees with me that it is wise to wait a while longer to resume Sunday School classes. We will continue to monitor the public health data, and by no means are we reducing our commitment to the Nellie Hudson class. When we believe it is prudent to resume, we shall! Pray for that happy day to

come soon!

In other matters related to our re-opening, we shall continue to work to improve the quality of our broadcasts to those members and visitors who remain unable to visit us. Moreover, to help us do a better job of that, we invite you please to pass along your comments, observations, and suggestions to the church office. Please do not be reluctant to do so-- we want our "virtual" worship experience to be every bit as spiritually rewarding as our in-person services.

Finally, allow me to repeat for emphasis the Session's concerns about safety as we resume in-person gatherings at the church:

- The Session continues to stress that individuals whose health may be compromised, and who are thus especially vulnerable to the coronavirus, should continue to worship with us from their homes. Our advice is, "When in doubt, don't go out!" You will be remembered in our hearts and prayers as we return to the Sanctuary for worship.
- While inside the church, everyone will be required to observe the Worship Committee's Health Protocols. A complete list of those protocols appears on our website at [www.fpcovictoria.org](http://www.fpcovictoria.org). Please review them carefully and plan to follow them to keep you and all church members and visitors safe. We will have greeters at the entrances to the church, as well as additional copies of the Health Protocols, to help you remember all of the precautions we will have in place.

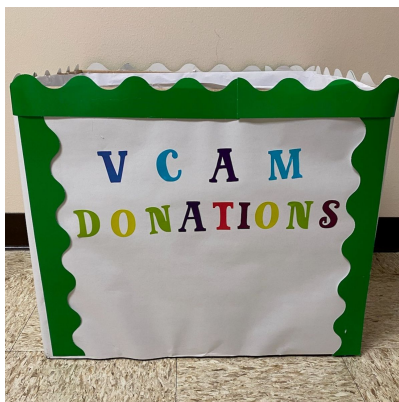
As always, please continue to pray for the safety of our congregation, our community and, indeed, all of God's children as the coronavirus continues to disrupt lives as it spreads illness and death.



**November 18 – Suzanne Salinas**

If you or someone you know has a birthday this week,  
please contact the church office:





Now that we are returning to worship in our Sanctuary, this is an especially good time to resume our faithful habit of bringing extra canned goods, paper goods, and other non-perishable items to donate to VCAM so those good folks can distribute them to the many families and individuals who are hardest hit by the current pandemic and economic downturn.

Marsha Ricottilli has made an attractive donation box (pictured above) to replace the rusty old shopping cart we used to have, so please look for it in the corridor outside the church office and give as generously as you can. We will make sure the donations are delivered promptly to VCAM. God bless you!

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**THANKING OUR VETERANS FOR THEIR SERVICE**  
**NOVEMBER 11, 2020**



Our deepest gratitude to our veterans and their families  
as we celebrate Veterans Day.  
Our heartfelt thanks to all the men and women

who have served in the U.S. armed forces  
while defending our freedom, our liberty,  
and our cherished democracy.

God bless all those who have served our country with pride and patriotism.

Peace, grace, and mercy,

Pastor Jim

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